

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3126

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO

SUBJ: NATO RESPONSE TO ICELAND'S INVOCATION OF ARTICLE VII

REF: USNATO 3109

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS ARTICLE VII OF THE U.S.- ICELANDIC DEFENSE AGREEMENT ON JULY 5. GUIDANCE REQUESTED ON THE SCENARIO OUTLINED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE SEVERAL PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS HERE WITH SYG LUNS' OFFICE AND WITH CONCERNED DELEGATION ON HOW NATO SHOULD RESPOND TO ICELAND'S INVOCATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE U.S.- ICELAND DEFENSE AGREEMENT (USNATO 3048). THE SCENARIO WHICH MOST APPEAR TO FAVOR IS THE FOLLOWING:

JULY 5 -- NAC REQUESTS THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO PREPARE A REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VII REVIEWING "THE CONTINUED NECESSITY FOR THE FACILITIES AND THEIR UTILIZATION." THE MILITARY COMMITTEE REPORT WILL BE CONFINED TO THE STRATEGIC AND MILITARY ELEMENTS OF THE PROBLEM, AND NOT INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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ASPECTS. IT WILL PROBABLY BE ALONG THE LINES OF A MC REPORT PREPARED IN JULY 1971, ENTITLED "NOTE ON THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF ICELAND TO NATO" (CMC-93-71).

LATE AUGUST-EARLY SEPTEMBER -- NAC REVIEWS MILITARY COMMITTEE

REPORT AND, TOGETHER WITH ANY ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS, FORWARDS IT TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. THE LATER POINT IN THE SCENARIO IS, OF COURSE, THE MOST IMPORTANT, SINCE IT INVOLVES THE DELICATE QUESTION OF TIMING FOR SUBMISSION OF REPORT. PREVALENT VIEW HERE IS FOR A DATE WHICH IS AS FAR REMOVED IN TIME AS POSSIBLE FROM THE FISHERIES DISPUTE. AT THE SAME TIME, NATO SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE FOOT-DRAGGING AND SHOULD AVOID GIVING ANY FACTION OF GOI A PRETEXT FOR BLOCKING U.S.-ICELAND BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. ENOUGH TIME SHOULD BE ALLOWED FOR COMPLETION OF U.S.-GOI BASE DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ENDING OF THE SIX-MONTHS REVIEW PERIOD, IN THE EVENT GOI REFUSES TO ENTER OR CONCLUDE SERIOUS TALKS WITH US UNTIL AFTER NATO STUDY IS COMPLETED.

3. AS BACKGROUND, THE MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S AND REYKJAVIK'S ASSESMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NATO REVIEW UNDER ARTICLE VII AND U.S.-ICELANDIC BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON BASE ARRANGEMENTS. TACTICALLY, WHAT WOULD BE THE MOST USEFUL TIMING FROM WASHINGTON'S AND REYKJAVIK'S STANDPOINT?

4. THE FRENCH DELEGATION HAS ENCOURAGED US TO THINK THAT PARIS MIGHT WISH TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS SITUATION AND MAY ACCEPT THE NAC RATHER THAN THE DPC AS THE FORUM FOR RECEIVING AND DISCUSSING THE MILITARY COMMITTEE REPORT. PRENDERGAST

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